

**Notice of Public Meeting**

**Letter Sent to Direct Abutters by Certified Mail**

**LAKE AUBURN**  
**WATERSHED PROTECTION COMMISSION**  
AUBURN, ME 04212-0414 OR LEWISTON, ME 04243-7250  
(207)-784-6469



Notice of Public Meeting

Algaecide Application to Lake Auburn

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, March 27, 2013  
**Location:** Auburn City Building  
Community Room  
**Time:** 6:00PM to 8:00PM

In accordance with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) General Application for Waste Discharge License (WDL)/Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) Permit (Form DEPLW0105-B2033), and MDEP Discharge of Pesticide(s) To Treat a Public Water Supply Supplemental Application Form, the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission (LAWPC) is hosting a public informational meeting to present plans and seek public comment on the intent to apply for an algaecide application permit for Lake Auburn in 2013.

There will be a brief presentation, followed by questions and answers.

A regular LAWPC business meeting will precede the Public Meeting at 5:00PM.

Questions prior to the meeting can be directed to:

Sid Hazelton, P.E.  
District Engineer  
Auburn Water District  
268 Court St.  
Auburn, Maine 04210

[shazelton@awsd.org](mailto:shazelton@awsd.org)  
(207) 784-6469

(Note: This is the second mailing of this notice: as a direct Lake abutter, you are receiving this notice by certified mail)

**Notice of Public Meeting**

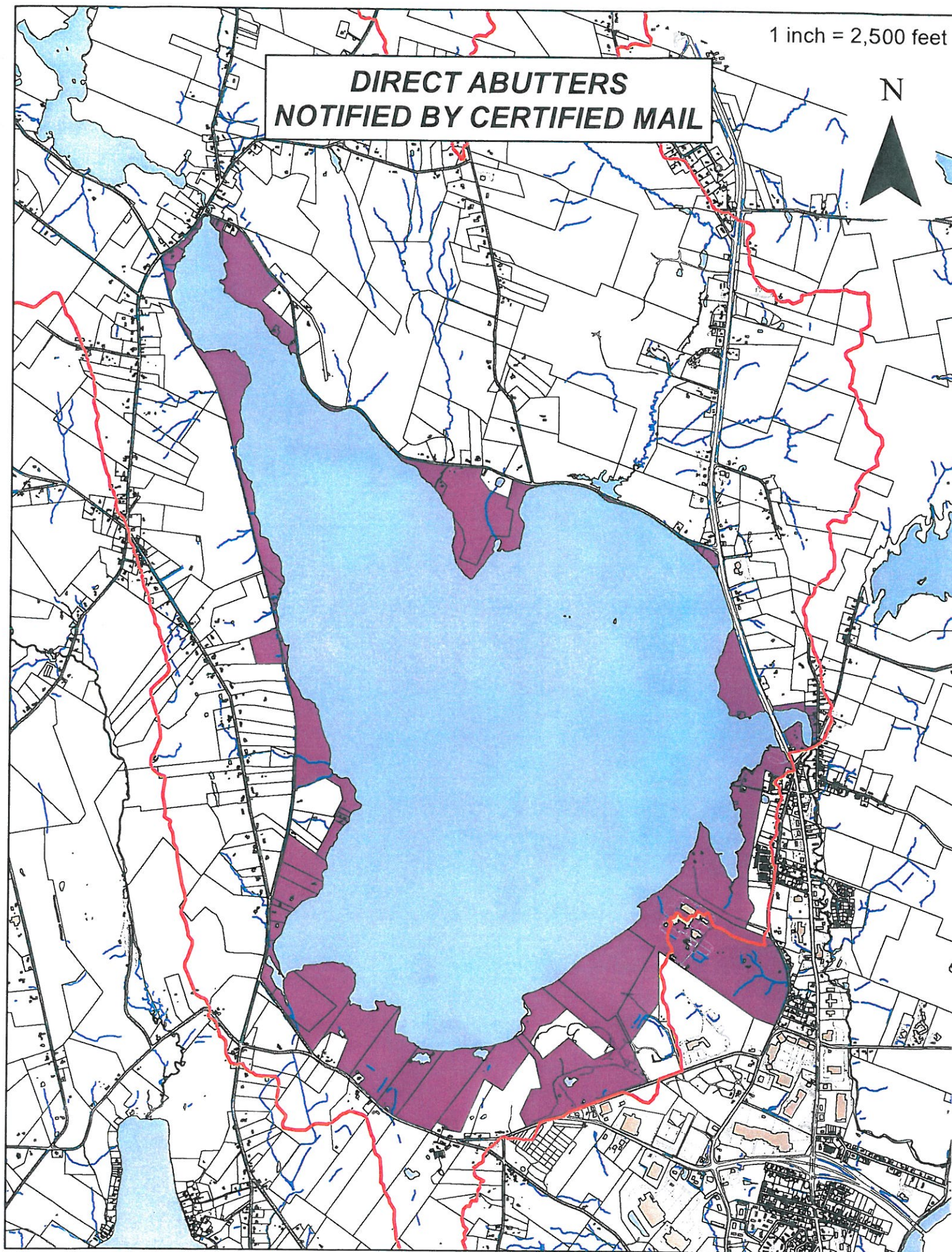
**Map of Direct Abutters**



1 inch = 2,500 feet

**DIRECT ABUTTERS  
NOTIFIED BY CERTIFIED MAIL**

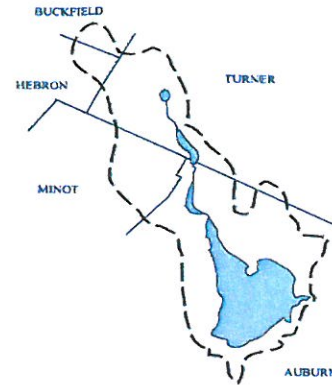
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**Notice of Public Meeting**  
**Letter Sent to Expanded List**

**LAKE AUBURN**  
**WATERSHED PROTECTION COMMISSION**  
AUBURN, ME 04212-0414 OR LEWISTON, ME 04243-7250  
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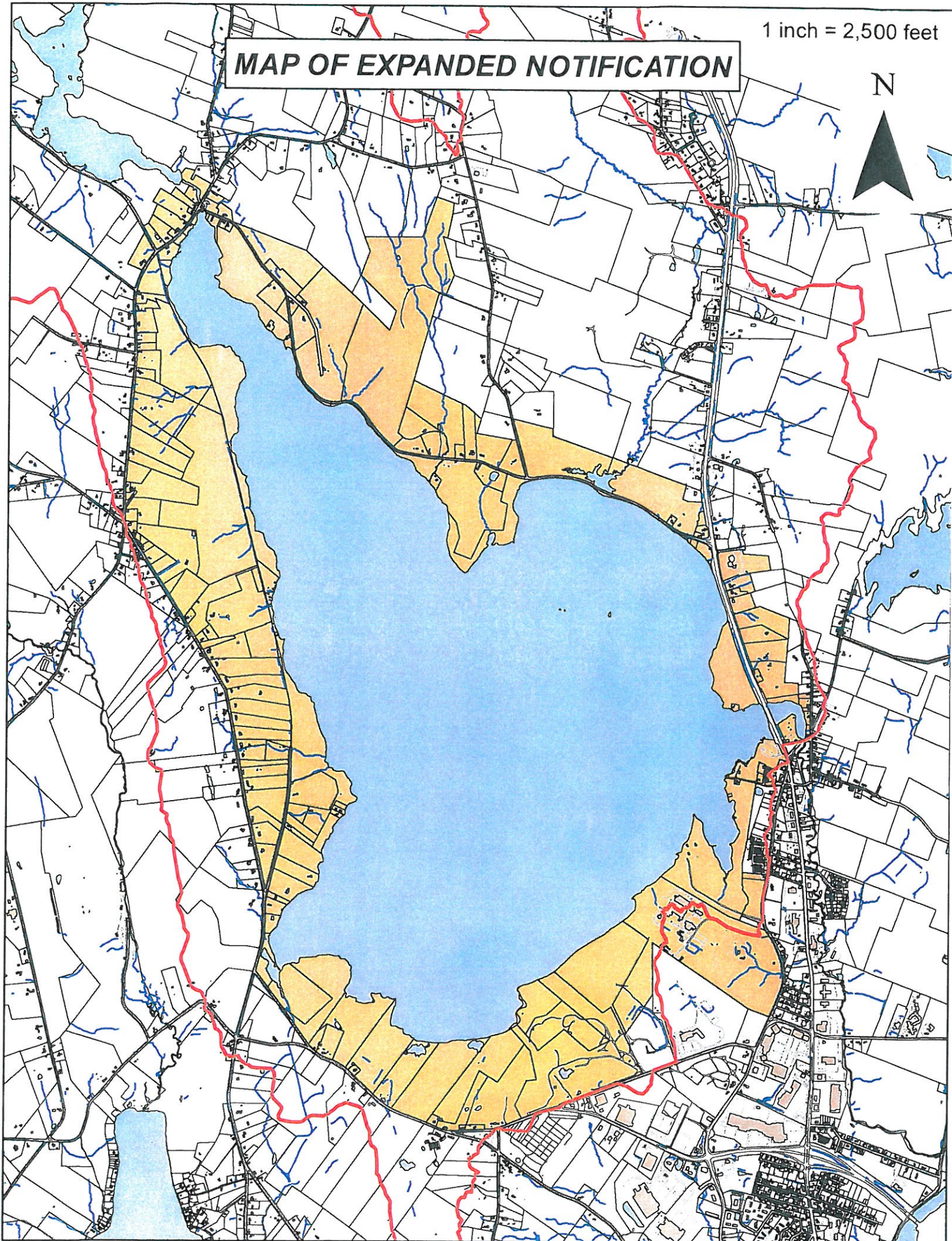
**Map of Expanded List**



1 inch = 2,500 feet

# MAP OF EXPANDED NOTIFICATION

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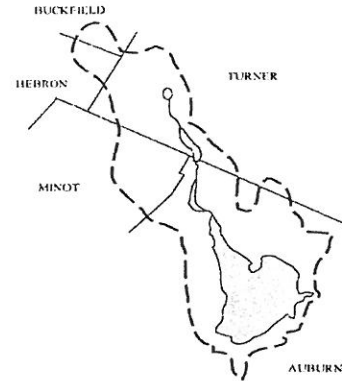




**Notice of Public Meeting**

**Receipt of Notification Letter from Auburn Clerks Office**

**LAKE AUBURN**  
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(207) 784-6469

Dated at: Auburn, Maine Androscoggin, ss  
On: March 15, 2013

*Alison F. Rivin, Deputy Clerk*

## **Notice of Public Meeting in Newspapers**



FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2013 » LEWISTON, MAINE

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#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered December 27, 2011 as affected by an Order on Plaintiff's Motion for Relief from Judgment Pursuant to M.R.C.P. 60(h)(4).

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## L-A THIS WEEK

### Monday

**AUBURN** — City Council workshop, 5:30 p.m., Auburn Hall: Capital improvement budget, followed by a joint workshop with the Auburn School Committee. Superintendent Katy Grondin's proposed budget would increase school spending 4.6 percent from last year.

### Tuesday

**AUBURN** — Public information session concerning the future of the Outlet Beach, 5:30 p.m. in Auburn Hall.

**LEWISTON** — City Council workshop and regular meeting, 6 p.m., Lewiston City Hall: Joint budget workshop with Lewiston City Council and Lewiston School Committee. Superintendent Bill Webster's proposed Lewiston school budget, which if passed would raise property taxes 8.4 percent. Also, councilors discuss environmental concerns with building demolitions. Regular meeting agenda includes update to development agreement for a Lincoln Street hotel.

### Wednesday

**AUBURN** — School Committee budget meeting workshop, 5:30 p.m., Auburn Hall, final budget meeting before April 3 public hearing.

**AUBURN** — Public information session about using algaecide in Lake Auburn, 6 p.m. in Auburn Hall.

### Thursday

**AUBURN** — New High School Steering Committee, 6 to 8 p.m., Auburn Hall. This is the school board's appointed committee exploring what kind of new and improved Edward Little High the city should build, most likely with local taxpayers money. Up for discussion March 28, the timeline of a referendum, the next steps in the process.

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2013

## Lewiston-Auburn

# Lake Auburn watershed officials consider algicide



Scott Taylor, Staff Writer

Lewiston-Auburn | Thursday, March 7, 2013 at 3:00 pm

AUBURN — Lake Auburn watershed officials will ask the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to use a copper sulfate algicide to prevent another fish-killing algae bloom.

The Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission has scheduled a public hearing from 6 to 8 p.m. March 27 in Auburn Hall to discuss its plans.

Lake Auburn is the drinking water supply for Lewiston and Auburn.

"Getting a permit from the state is a long process, so we want to be prepared," said Lynn Richard, Lake Auburn watershed education and outreach manager. "We want to be ready because the algae will be ready to grow. We need to give the state enough time to review the application. It's probably going to take the rest of the month for us to get the application completed."

Water quality officials in mid-September discovered more than 200 dead trout along the shore or floating close to the shore. They blamed the kill on high phosphorous levels in the lake that encourage common blue-green algae to grow.

As the algae grows and dies, it sinks into the lake, decaying and using up oxygen in the process. Fish, such as trout, that prefer the cooler bottom of the lake are starved of oxygen.

Engineers found elevated phosphorous levels and evidence of waterside erosion at several points along Lake Auburn's feeder tributaries. Those include Little Wilson Pond, the Basin and Townsend Brook.

Copper sulfate is an algicide used to treat algae blooms in swimming pools and aquariums. It was one of the options discussed last month when the watershed group released results of its study of the fish kill.

"We are not sure the algae will return," Richard said. "But if it does, it's going to start in the spring and the early summer. And we want to be ready."

The watershed group's plan calls for using an approved algicide applied by licensed applicators, Auburn Water District Superintendent John Storer said in a written statement.

"The goal is to halt short-term decline of the lake and at the same time develop strategies to assure high-quality drinking water for the long term," Storer said in the statement. "We want to hear from our customers and from watershed residents if they have any questions or concerns."

[staylor@sunjournal.com](mailto:staylor@sunjournal.com)



# BANGOR DAILY NEWS

## Lake Auburn protection group seeks permit for algaecide

By Lynne Richard,

Posted March 07, 2013, at 5:16 p.m.

The Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission announced Thursday its intent to file to the Department of Environmental Protection for permission to apply algaecide to Lake Auburn this summer.

In preparation for the permit application the watershed group has scheduled a public information session for 6-8 p.m. March 27, at Auburn City Hall to explain the need for algaecide, the process for application, expected long-and short term benefits to water quality, and to answer questions.

A diagnostic study completed this month by consulting firm CDM Smith indicates that last fall's fish kill was a result of oxygen depletion probably caused by the decay of large amounts of algae. The algae growth was fueled by increases in nutrients (phosphorus) in the lake, brought in from the watershed by large storm events and cycled from bottom sediments. Once algae populations flourish in a lake they can take hold and return year after year in increasing numbers.

"It's possible that last year's events were mostly weather-related and won't be repeated this year," explains Mary Jane Dillingham, Lewiston and Auburn's Water Quality Manager. "But we are closely monitoring the lake to be ready for action at the first sign of another algae bloom. Properly timed treatment can interrupt the growth of targeted nuisance algae and prevent bloom-related problems like low oxygen, taste and odor issues, clogged filters, and fish stress- without harming the quality of drinking water."

State permits are required for treatment to control algae. Plans include using approved an algaecide applied by licensed applicators, with strict management plans in place for all contingencies. John Storer, Auburn Water District's Superintendent explains, "It's a well-regulated process, as it should be. The goal is to halt any short-term decline of the lake and at the same time develop strategies to assure high quality drinking water for the long-term. We want to hear from our customers and from watershed residents if they have any questions or concerns."

The permit application is expected to be completed and filed with the State by the end of March.

<http://bangordailynews.com/pressrelease/lake-auburn-protection-group-seeks-permit-for-algaecide/>  
printed on March 11, 2013

## **Informational Handout distributed at Public Meeting**

## Algae and Algae Treatment Fact Sheet

LAKE AUBURN  
WATERSHED PROTECTION COMMISSION  
AUBURN, ME 04212-0414 OR LEWISTON, ME 04243-7250



### Why are we considering algaecide treatment?

In the fall of 2012, more than 200 trout were found floating in Lake Auburn. After months of study, it was determined that lake algae had “bloomed”, eventually resulting in mass decay which used up oxygen usually available to fish. When fish enter an area devoid of oxygen, they can’t survive.

Lakes are ecosystems, meaning that healthy lakes support a balance of life --from tiny microscopic organisms to larger plants and animals, including fish. Even the cleanest lakes, such as Lake Auburn, contain algae in numbers that supply a sufficient food source for larger animals without interfering with the clarity and quality of water. In the case of Lake Auburn, however, the natural balance has been upset.

### Will this happen again?

We don’t know for sure. Algae need nutrients to grow. In lakes, phosphorus- a naturally occurring nutrient found in all living things and deposited in soils- feeds algae growth. Runoff from land carries phosphorus from soils to the water. We believe that last winter’s warmth combined with June’s heavy rainfall created just the right nutrient conditions for algae to bloom. It’s possible that we may not repeat those conditions, but it’s also very possible that the nutrients already in the lake can generate another bloom.

### What will happen if there’s another algae bloom?

If we do nothing, the quality of our water will decline, we could be faced with boil orders in the future, and the existing fishery will suffer. There is a very short window of opportunity to halt an algae bloom. Our scientists and consultants are already checking water samples daily to detect the first sign of unusual growth. Should we see the beginnings of an algae bloom we need to be ready to act immediately.

### How can you control algae?

We have spent many months researching and consulting with experts and officials. Should it be necessary- and only if it’s necessary- we propose to apply an algaecide to halt the growth of algae this summer. Applied early in the bloom stages, an algaecide can effectively interrupt algae growth.

### Is it safe to use an algaecide in drinking water?

If we must use an algaecide, we want to choose one proven over time to be both safe and effective for drinking water. Copper sulfate is a naturally occurring trace element and is routinely used in other states to control algae in water supplies. It is also commonly used in swimming pools, vineyards, orchards, and berry fields. The EPA Drinking Water Action Level for copper is 1.3 ppm (parts per million). Our experts recommend a fraction of those levels to control Lake Auburn’s algae. Copper sulfate quickly binds to organic material in water, leaving little trace after only a few hours. During application and for some time after, AWS and LWD customers will use water from our existing storage tanks. We will replenish our storage once copper levels have diminished.

### Will we need to apply algaecide every year?

In the best case scenario we will halt this year’s bloom of algae in the lake. At the same time, we must work toward longer-term solutions; so we are creating programs to assist watershed residents with efforts to reduce phosphorus inputs to the lake. We take very seriously our responsibility to provide clean, safe drinking water to residents and visitors in the Lewiston/Auburn area.



## Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission

### Application Outline

General Application for Waste Discharge License (WDL)/Maine Pollution Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) Permit

MDEP Discharge of Pesticide(s) To Treat A Public Water Supply Supplemental Application Form

<u>Task</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Pre-Application Meeting</b>	3/6/13
<b>Notification of Public Meeting</b>	
• Notify abutters by certified mail	3/15/13
• Send notification to City Clerk	3/13/13
• Publish meeting in newspaper	3/15/13
<b>Conduct Public Meeting</b>	3/27/13
<b>Pre-Submission meeting With DEP</b>	3/28/13
<b>Notice of Intent to file application with DEP</b>	3/29/13
• Publication of Public Notice in Newspaper (sent within 30 days prior to submission)	
• Notice to abutters (sent within 30 days prior to submission)	
• Notice to Municipal Office(sent within 30 days prior to submission)	
<b>The Notice of intent will include instructions for public comment</b>	
<b>File Application with DEP</b>	4/1/2013
<b>Application to include:</b>	
• Pesticide Discharge Management Plan (PDMP)	
• Letters from	
○ Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	
○ Maine Department of Health and Human Services	
○ Maine Department of Agriculture's Board of Pesticide Control.	

## **Lewiston Sun Journal Coverage of Public Meeting**

LAKE AUBURN

# Algae treatments seen as last resort for water officials

BY SCOTT TAYLOR  
STAFF WRITER

AUBURN — Twin Cities water quality officials hope they don't have to use an algicide to prevent a fish-killing algae bloom this summer, but they want to be prepared.

Officials of the Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission plan to apply for permits that will allow them to put copper sulfate in Lake Auburn to halt a potential late-summer algae bloom. They will apply Monday to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

"This is a protective measure that we hope we don't have to use," said Kevin Gagne of the Lewiston Water District.

Officials hosted a public hearing for Lake Auburn neighbors and Twin Cities residents in Auburn Hall on Wednesday night. The lake is the water supply for Lewiston and Auburn.

Auburn Water District Engineer Sid Hazelton said he plans to meet with DEP officials Thursday to discuss the applications for the necessary permits.

Water-quality officials discovered more than 200 dead trout along the shoreline or floating close to shore in mid-September. They blamed the kill on high phosphorus levels, which encourage common blue-green algae to grow.

As the algae grows and dies, it sinks into the lake, decaying and using up oxygen in the process. Fish such as trout, which prefer the cooler bottom of the lake, become deprived of oxygen.

Engineers found elevated phosphorus levels and evidence of waterside erosion at several sites along Lake Auburn's feeder tributaries. Those included Little Wilson Pond, the Basin and Townsend Brook.

Copper sulfate is an algicide used to treat algae blooms in swimming pools and aquariums. It was one of the options discussed last month when the watershed group released results of its study of the fish kill.

Dr. Ken Wagner of Water Resource Services said the cities don't want to use the algicide.

"We are putting copper

compounds in the water to kill algae," Wagner said. "We hope to do it in a way that does not threaten any other aquatic resources, and we are quite sure there is no risk to people. But anything represents a risk, and we would prefer not to do it. But the alternative is to risk public safety by not treating the algae."

The plan calls for water officials to monitor the conditions in the lake. The algicide would be put in an area around the water district's intake pipe — about 570 acres in the southern end of the lake — as soon as the algae growth is first noted. It should interrupt the growth cycle early, keeping it from killing fish.

It will be a single-year solution. Water officials are investigating ways to aerate the lake or kill algae in the long term, Wagner said.

"Nobody is suggesting that algicide application is a long-term solution to the problem," Wagner said. "It's a stop-gap, interim measure to get us through, if we need it, until something else can be done."

He said the application would use about 0.1 milligrams of copper sulfate per liter. Federal drinking standards stipulate that copper sulfate levels should stay below 1.3 milligrams per liter, so the Lake Auburn application should be safe.

Even so, the district would use drinking water from city reservoirs during treatment, Auburn Water District Superintendent John Storer said.

Lake Auburn's most immediate neighbors who use their own intake pipes to get water from Lake Auburn said they were concerned.

"The drinking water is one concern," said Barry Fraser of Church Street. "There is a risk here. It says it can be taken in through the skin, so how can I tell my wife she can take two showers a day and not risk concentrations that are dangerous?"

Storer said the district would work to test levels around private water intakes during treatment and would provide bottled water to affected homes.

staylor@sunjournal.com